1 THE EMBODIMENTS OF THE INVENTION IN WHICH AN EXCLUSIVE PROPERTY

2 OR PRIVILEGE IS CLAIMED ARE DEFINED AS FOLLOWS:

3

4 1.   A system of extracting a visual feature from a dataset, comprising:

5   (a) display means for displaying said dataset;

6   (b) means for defining a block of voxels corresponding to a selected portion of said

7   displayed dataset, said block containing said visual feature therein;

8   (c) means for removing from said block voxels not containing said visual feature, to

9   generate a feature block;

10   (d) means for generating a mask from said feature block; and

11   (e) means for rendering said dataset using said mask.

12

13 2.   A method for extracting a visual feature from a dataset representing an image of an

14   object, said method comprising the steps of:

15   (a) displaying said dataset;

16   (b) defining a block of voxels corresponding to a selected portion of said displayed

17   dataset, said block containing said visual feature therein;

18   (c) removing from said dataset voxels not contained by said selected portion, to

19   generate a feature block;

20   (d) generating a mask from said feature block; and

21   (e) rendering said dataset using said mask.

22

23 3.   An article of manufacture comprising:

24   (a)   a computer usable medium having computer readable program code embodied

25   therein for extracting a visual feature from a dataset representing an image of

26   an object, the computer readable program code in said article of manufacture

27   comprising;

28   (b)   computer readable program code configured to cause a computer to display

29   said dataset;

30   (c)   computer readable program code configured to cause a computer to define a

31   block of voxels corresponding to a selected portion of said displayed dataset,

32   said block containing said visual feature therein;

1 (d) computer readable program code configured to cause a computer to remove

2   from said dataset voxels not contained by said selected portion, to generate a

3   feature block;

4 (e) computer readable program code configured to cause a computer to generate a

5   mask from said feature block; and

6 (f) computer readable program code configured to cause a computer to render

7   said dataset using said mask.